

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06246 171354Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0445

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6246

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: U.S. RESIDUAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: A) STATE 64280; B) STATE 62067

1. WE TAKE A VERY GRAVE VIEW OF THE FORCES WHICH WOULD BE UNLEASHED IF THE THAI WERE TOLD THAT AS A RESULT OF OUR INABILITY TO REACH AGREEMENT, AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE OF OUR FORCES, THE JUSMAG WERE ALSO TO BE WITHDRAWN. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY TRIGGER THE EVENTS TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED US TO BE SENSITIVE IN PARA 4, STATE 062067. THE THAI MILITARY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THIS U.S. ACTION WAS THE RESULT OF THE INEPT AND SHORT-SIGHTED POLICIES OF THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT AND ITS MISHANDLING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE SOLUTION WHICH OBVIOUSLY WOULD LEAP TO MIND WOULD BE TO REPLACE THE KHUKRIT GOVERNMENT IN ORDER THAT MAP WOULD BE RESTORED. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THE KING WOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS KIND OF REASONING.

2. WE ARE ALSO INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT IN A LESS SENSATIONAL WAY, THE GOVERNING ELITE OF THIS COUNTRY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE AMERICANS WERE ABANDONING THAILAND TO ITS FATE. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCK WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING EFFECTS NOT ONLY IN THAILAND BUT, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS BETTER QUALIFIED TO JUDGE, IN

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06246 171354Z

THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

3. TO PUT IT BRIEFLY AND BLUNTLY, THE WITHDRAWAL
OF JUSMAG AND THE ABRUPT CESSATION OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE WOULD REALLY SAW OFF WHAT THE DEPARTMENT
APPLY DESCRIBED AN AN AWKWARD AND DANGEROUS LIMB.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

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